

Notable ranking for Hobart Masonic Temple

Hobart's Masonic Temple, 219 Center Street, has been given a Notable ranking in a county-wide survey of historic buildings. The survey was conducted by architectural

historians from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (HLFI). Properties are rated Outstanding, Notable, Contributing or Non-Contributing based on their historical

significance, architectural merit, environment, and architectural integrity.

The Masonic Temple earned its rating for its Colonial Revival Style and the manner in

which its original architectural features have been preserved.

The temple is located on the site of Hobart's first school house, built by townspeople in 1845. A plaque commemorating the school has been placed on the temple's grounds. Hobart's M.L. McClelland Lodge purchased the site in 1916 and erected the Temple in 1925 under the leadership of Harry Livingston, who was master of the Lodge in 1925. Livingston, a local businessman and contractor, was also Hobart's second mayor, 1926-1929.

M.L. McClelland Lodge No. 357 was formed in Wheeler in 1866. Since most of its members were from Hobart, the group moved to Hobart in 1867 meeting in rented rooms in the downtown area until the Temple was constructed.

The Lake County Historic Sites and Structures Inventory was conducted by HLFI for the State's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA). It is part of a continuing program for a comprehensive statewide survey of historic properties. Data collected in the survey is on file with the DHPA and is used for environmental impact reviews as well as for other programs designed to protect and promote the state's cultural resources.

HLFI will publish a summary report of the Lake County survey, including Hobart, in late spring 1996. More information on the survey and the report can be obtained from the Hobart Historical Society, 706 E. Fourth Street.

--By Elin Christianson
Hobart Historical Society